



300377

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 12, 2020
Part of
Public Record

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman

Sam Graves, MO
Ranking Member

Katherine W. Dedrick, Staff Director

December 9, 2019

Paul J. Sass, Republican Staff Director

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Board Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Chairman Begeman, Vice Chairman Fuchs, and Board Member Oberman:

We write to urge the Surface Transportation Board to incorporate a thorough cost-benefit analysis into its regulatory framework towards future significant rulemakings. We appreciate the Board's recent solicitation of information (Docket No. EP 752) on integrating cost-benefit analysis into STB's rulemaking process. The incorporation of cost-benefit analysis will improve the transparency and clarity of the Board's decisions and help ensure that any new regulatory action appropriately promotes the long-term health of the freight transportation sector for shippers, railroads, and consumers alike.

To meet rail transportation policy mandates, the Board should impose new regulations only where made necessary by compelling public need and after thoroughly weighing the costs and benefits of any proposed actions. As part of this analysis, the Board should consider how its intervention in the private marketplace will affect the broader industry's ability to respond to changing market conditions and to what degree new regulations will interact with existing regulations.

A thorough consideration of the costs and benefits of any regulation is the bedrock upon which a clearly articulated vision for the future of freight transportation is built. We therefore encourage the Board to adopt rules that align its rulemaking proceedings with the best practices of the federal government, taking into account its obligations under existing law.

We also ask that the Board carefully consider the recommendations contained in the Task Force's report. Since the passage of the Staggers Act and the resulting economic deregulation, the rail industry has achieved substantial improvements in safety, made significant investments in infrastructure including PTC implementation, and developed new technologies to improve its operations. It is crucial that the regulatory structure under which railroads, a network industry, operate remains balanced. Regulatory policy must recognize the importance of railroads' ability to invest, grow their networks, and meet the nation's freight transportation demands.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and look forward to working with you in the future. If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact Michael Falencki on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure staff at (202) 226-0727.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves, Ranking Member



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



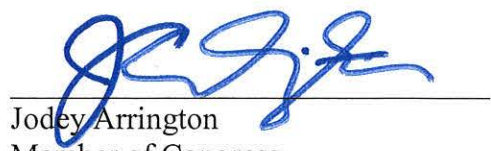
Ron Estes
Member of Congress



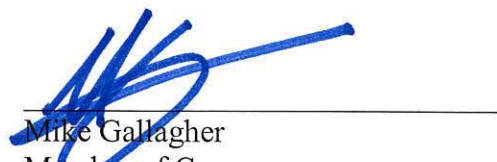
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



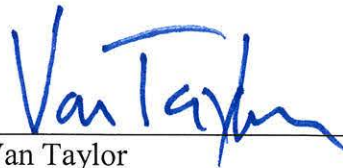
Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



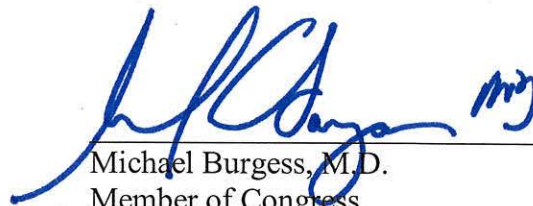
Ron Wright
Member of Congress



Van Taylor
Member of Congress



Will Hurd
Member of Congress



Michael Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



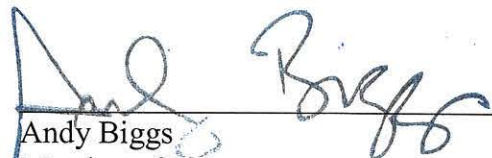
John Carter
Member of Congress



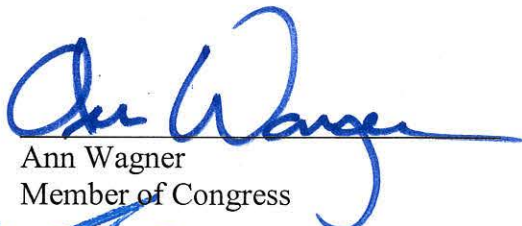
John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris-Rodgers
Member of Congress



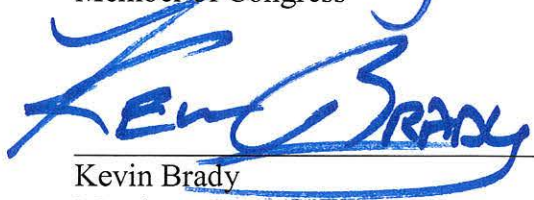
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



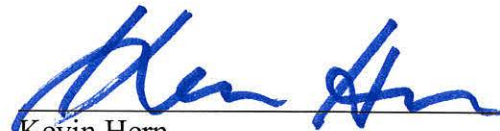
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



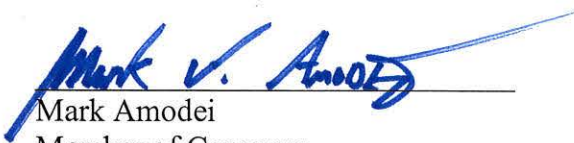
Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress



Mark Amodei
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress


Greg Pence
Member of Congress

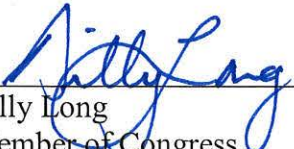

Ross Spano
Member of Congress


Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon
Member of Congress


John Curtis
Member of Congress

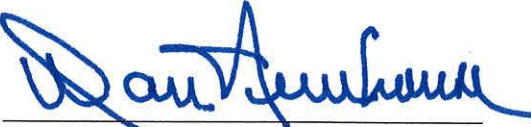

Garret Graves
Member of Congress


Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

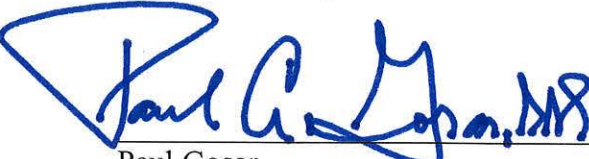

Billy Long
Member of Congress


Mark Meadows
Member of Congress

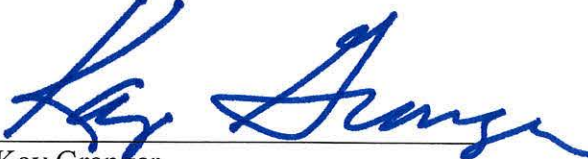

Carol Miller
Member of Congress


Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress


John Rutherford
Member of Congress


Paul Gosar
Member of Congress


Randy Weber
Member of Congress

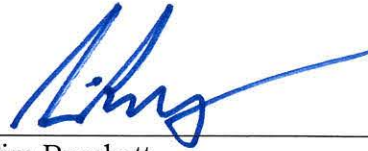

Kay Granger
Member of Congress


Brian Babin
Member of Congress


Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Mark Walker
Member of Congress



Denver Riggleman
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Drew Ferguson
Member of Congress



David P. Roe, MD
Member of Congress



Mark Green
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Trey Hollingsworth
Member of Congress